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LIU PU-T'UNG ANSWERS HIS CRITICS

Liu Pu-T'ung
KMT Member
Legislative Yuan

I would like to answer several questions which, from time to time, have been asked me.

1. Is a KMT Party member, who openly criticizes his leader, engaging in "disrespectful" and "rebellious" behaviour?

I recognize that the leader and public representative of a democratic political party carries a heavy responsibility and is worthy of respect. It should be recognized, however, that he is elected by the party members to carry out the policies of the party and is their servant, not their master or ruler. He is one of them, not different, divine, or infallible. Mistakes may proceed from the best of intentions; and yet they should not remain uncriticized. If the elements of a party pretend to observe the law but actually are deceitful rascals, such a party will become rotten and helpless and will be destroyed.

My criticisms of Chairman Chiang are based on this principle. What I have said openly has been said before by others covertly. If my conduct is rebellious and immoral, then theirs is base and despicable. The KMT should become a truly democratic political party, and not merely a tool for the advantage of a clique. There should be no discrimination between big shots and little fellows, between those in office and those not in office; all should have equal standing, and anyone should have the right to criticize any other member of the Party.

2. Should a KMT Party member leave the Party before criticizing other responsible members of the Party?

A member of the Central Committee of the Party has told me that I ought to leave it before criticizing members for being corrupt, avaricious and inept. Doubtless there are others who hold a similar opinion. I believe

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that the Party belongs to all the members, not to any one member or clique. Members carrying the responsibilities of office, on behalf of the Party, are the servants of the party and hence accountable to it. This might not be true if the Party were a self-seeking secret society where a member must follow his leaders uncritically. But the KMT is not a secret society; it is a political party based on the Three People's Principles. This being the case, why should I leave the Party before calling to account members of the Central Committee?

3. Is it permissible for a member of the Legislative Yuan to criticize the President?

The president of a nation, it is generally acknowledged, is the servant of the people. Members of the Legislative Yuan are the representatives of the people, the agents of the master. Is not the master permitted to reprimand the servant? What American president has not been subjected to criticism, attack, and opposition? Our legislators are like the representative councillors of other democratic nations, and are entitled to the same prerogatives that they possess. This is undeniable; hence it is within the rights of a legislator to criticize the president.

4. Is it my purpose to organize a new party? Is it my intention to hide away in Hong Kong?

As a youth I joined the KMT because I believed in the Three People's Principles. In the more than 20 years since then, I do not hesitate to affirm that I have never been disloyal to my political beliefs; for them I have worked and sacrificed. But when I reflect seriously upon the departures of the KMT from the ideals to which it was committed and the sad state to which it has brought the country, I cannot help hating the nerve center which is chiefly responsible for the present state of affairs.

It is because of my love for the Party that I criticize and reprove it for its weaknesses and evils. In doing so, my emotional devotion to my political beliefs finds its highest expression. My belief in my ideals for the Party is as strong as ever, and I know there are many other men both inside and outside the Party who feel as I. I am confident that the day will come when these like-minded men will free themselves from the factional fetters of the Party and will fight again shoulder to shoulder for the accomplishment of the Party's revolutionary task. For these reasons, the question of organizing a new party has no place in my thoughts.

I am a Chinese citizen; China belongs to me. I have not indulged in any disloyal words or actions; I have not committed any crimes. My conduct has been such as is permitted by the constitution. I refuse to be intimidated by anyone. Why should I flee to Hong Kong?

This is my answer.

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